

Amendment to the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for inhibiting activity of a T lymphocyte against a target cell, which method comprises contacting the target cell with a soluble form of a human CD8  $\alpha\alpha$  or  $\alpha\beta$  molecule which is folded as a dimer and has the property of inhibiting the action of cytotoxic T cell lymphocytes to kill target cells, wherein at least one  $\alpha$  chain of said molecule (a) has SEQ ID NO: 23 or (b) differs from SEQ ID NO: 23 in one or more of the following respects:

- (i) methionine is absent at the N-terminus;
- (ii) 1-15 amino acid residues are absent from the N-terminus;
- (iii) part or all of SEQ ID NO: 27 is added at the N-terminus;
- (iv) 1-15 amino acids are absent from the C-terminus; but with at least a part of the region defined by amino acid residues 116-120 retained;
- (v) part or all of SEQ ID NO: 28 is added at the C-terminus;
- (vi) a conservative variant of at least one amino acid residue which does not materially affect the CD8 functionality of the protein;
- (vii) at least one mutation which does alter the CD8 functionality,
- (viii) the addition of a protein or peptide, at the N or C terminus, for the purpose of purification;
- (ix) the provision of a label for detection.

Claims 2-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the soluble CD8 is provided as a multimer of two or more CD8  $\alpha\alpha$  or  $\alpha\beta$  molecules.

Claims 6-23 (withdrawn)

*cancel* Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one mutation which does alter the CD8 functionality is at least one mutation which increases the property of inhibiting the action of cytotoxic T cell lymphocytes to kill at least one target cell.

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